Museum of Natural History. Permits to collect birds in Mexico were obtained through the Departamento de Conservación de Fauna Silvestre. Richard Manville of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was kind enough to supply us with a copy of the field notes on Cozumel birds made by Nelson and Goldman.

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Plumages of the Red-collared Honeyeater *Myzomela rosenbergii longirostris* from Goodenough Island, D'Entrecasteaux Islands, Papua New Guinea

by Mary LeCroy & William S. Peckover

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The montane Red-collared Honeyeater is found throughout mainland New Guinea (nominate subspecies *M. r. rosenbergii*) but, offshore, only on Goodenough Island in the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago. Mayr and Rand (1935: 12–13) described *M. r. longirostris* of Goodenough, based mainly on its much longer bill. Their material comprised 1 male (the holotype), 4 immature males, and 1 immature female, now in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). The immature male was briefly described but the female was not. Later, Hobart Van Deusen collected four adult males (Mayr and Van Deusen, 1956: 5), also in AMNH. Harry Bell (1970) reported on a visit to Goodenough but did not encounter this species at the lower altitudes he surveyed. We camped 10–12 August 1988 at 1,060 m, above Galuwala Village, and collected 2 immature males and 3 females of *M. r. longirostris*. For comparison we had a large AMNH series of the nominate subspecies from many parts of New Guinea.

The adult males of the two populations—black with a brilliant red collar, back, and rump, and black axillaries—are superficially similar

except for the much longer bill in *longirostris*. However, on closer examination the red on the back and throat of *longirostris* appears darker and more saturated than that on the nominate form. The feathers of these red areas have bands of several colours: proximally dark grey, then a narrow band of black, a band of tan, and distilly a red tip that overlaps feathers beneath. The tan band is much broader in New Guinea birds, being darker and narrower in Goodenough birds and sometimes lacking. The extent to which the tan band shows depends somewhat on the "make" of the skin, but its width is diagnostic. The narrower and darker tan band on Goodenough birds causes red areas to appear darker and more saturated.

The adult female of *longirostris* has not been described and it differs from the nominate female, illustrated in Coates (1990: 249). In the AMNH collection, adult females of nominate *rosenbergii* collected with an enlarged ovary have the head dark, slightly scaly in appearance; the neck and back feathers have tan centres without red; the rump is red; the primaries, secondaries and rectrices are solid blackish-brown; some of the tertiaries have tan tips, varying individually in width. The throat is blackish, and feathers on the sides of the throat may have light tips; feathers of the red "bib" have three colour bands, lacking the narrow black band (see above); the belly is deep tan with dark grey feather bases apparent.

Adult females of *longirostris* are very different, having an overall olive-green wash—a colour not seen in nominate birds. Our three specimens have extensive red in the nape, upper back and rump. The immature female is acquiring red feathers in these areas. Below, the specimens are olive-grey with yellowish tips to throat feathers and have a red "bib". The younger individual has less extensive red on the breast and more extensive tan centres to the feathers that will be red. The red feathers have a greyish base, a narrow tan bar and a red tip, agreeing with the nominate females in lacking a narrow black band. The face is of the same olive-grey colour as the underparts and there is a definite dark post-ocular stripe with an olive-grey streak above it. The tertiaries lack tan tips.

Immature males of both subspecies are similar to their respective females, but are more variable. Nominate *rosenbergii* tend to look more brownish and patterned than females because they have more extensive tan centres to the feathers that will become red; all have at least some red on the rump and breast but none on the back or neck. The axillaries are white in females and immature males of both subspecies.

Of our six immature Goodenough males, the four with the most red in their plumage have an olive wash overall, but it is not as noticeable as in the female because the feather bases are more blackish, thus causing them to appear darker. There are no light tips on the throat feathers and the tan band is narrow or lacking in red feathers on the neck, back, rump, and breast. There are scattered tan tips on some tertiaries. The two immature males with least red (presumably younger), approach in appearance the female and young male of the nominate form, in that they are more brownish overall and have broad tan tips to the tertiaries and a scaly appearance to the back (due to the tan centres of the feathers

TABLE 1
Measurements (mm) and weights (g) of *Myzomela rosenbergii longirostris*

	Wing	Tail	Bill from base	Tarsus	Weight
Adult male	64.0–69.0	44.0–47.0	24.0–25.0	17.5–19.0	12.4–15.6
(n=5)	(65.6)	(46.0)	(24.4)	(18.3)	(n=3)
Imm. male	61.5–64.5	41.5–44.5	24.0–26.0	17.5–18.0	9.0, 9.8
(n=6)	(62.9)	(42.4)	(24.8)	(17.7)	
Female	57.0–61.0	38.5–43.0	21.5–22.5	16.0–17.5	7.5–8.5
(n=4)	(59.1)	(40.2)	(22.1)	(17.0)	(n=3)

that will be red). A few head feathers have narrow pale centres, giving the head a slightly scaled appearance.

Six juvenals of the nominate form are overall brownish, with blackish bases on body feathers, and tertiaries with broad tan tips. Three of these birds have a touch of red on their breasts, but none has red rump feathers. The juvenal of *longirostris* is undescribed.

In Koopman's (1957) analysis of the genus *Myzomela*, *M. rosenbergii* is listed in his "Section II, without close relatives." His discussion is based, however, on females of *M. r. rosenbergii*. With females of *M. r. longirostris* now in hand, a re-interpretation of relationships presents itself. The appearance of female and immature male *longirostris* approaches that of some female and immature male long-billed populations of *M. cardinalis*. Adult males differ in that the red of the nape and breast extends up to cover the entire head in populations such as *M. c. nigriventris* and *M. c. cardinalis*. It seems possible that the relationship of *longirostris* to *M. cardinalis* is closer than has been proposed in the past and that *cardinalis* as now understood is polyphyletic. Or the relationship may possibly lie with the superspecies comprising, in the Solomons, *M. lafargei*, *M. eichhorni*, *M. melanocephala*, *M. malaitae*, and *M. tristrami* (Galbraith & Galbraith, 1962; Salomonsen, 1967); and, in the Bismarck Archipelago, *M. pammelaena* (Diamond, 1976).

On Goodenough, we found *M. rosenbergii* common in the oak and *Castanopsis* forests at 1,000 m and above, and it is apparently confined to these altitudes. *M. nigrita forbesi*, the Goodenough low altitude form of *Myzomela*, is considerably smaller [wing, 9 males 58.0–61.5 (60.0 mm) and 3 females 52.0–54.0 (53.0 mm)] than *M. rosenbergii* (See Table 1). The male is all black except for a red spot on hind crown and the female is unpatterned olive-grey with dull red tips to feathers of head and throat; both have white axillaries. We did not encounter it between 620 and 1,075 m and altitudinal overlap between the two species has not been reported.

M. rosenbergii is the only *Myzomela* found on New Guinea above 2,000 m and is considerably larger than *M. adolphinae*, with which it may overlap at lower altitudes. If *Myzomela rosenbergii* were derived from populations to the east, then birds reaching New Guinea from Goodenough would have been able to coexist with *M. adolphinae*

and to exploit the unoccupied montane niche. This would have enabled the species to spread westward rapidly and without further differentiation.

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We dedicate this paper to the memory of the late Dr. Karl, F. Koopman, whose paper on *Myzomela* provided many insights into relationships within this fascinating genus.

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On the status of the Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia* in the Yucatan Peninsula

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The Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes certhia* is one of the largest members of the family Dendrocolaptidae. As traditionally understood, it has a wide distribution in the Neotropics, from southern Mexico to Brazil, and is highly polytypic, with 12 subspecies admitted by Peters (1951). Marantz (1997) favoured splitting off the populations north of Amazonia as a separate species, *D. sanctithomae*, a move also favoured by S. N. G. Howell (in litt.). I have not reviewed the evidence for this split, and will use the name *D. certhia* in this paper for convenience, as not only does all of the pre-Marantz literature use that name for the